

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated March 7, 2005. Claims 1-15 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-15 were rejected and claims 2-9 were objected to. In this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 10 and 15 were amended. Claims 1-15 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

The specification has been amended to correct the above objection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

§§ 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DeKadt et al. (USPN 2,625,698).

Claims 1, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Liebscher (USPN 3,638,267).

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liebscher (USPN 3,638,267).

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liebscher (USPN 3,638,267) in view of Christesen (USPN 1,972,870).

Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 10 are patentable over DeKadt, Liebscher and Christesen either taken alone or in combination.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claim 1 and 10 are directed

towards a sweeper. For example, independent claim 1 specifies that the sweeper comprises a first main wheel, a brush wheel, and a plurality of intermediate wheels. Claim 1 further specifies that the plurality of intermediate wheels include a first wheel, a second wheel and a third wheel, said intermediate wheels being in rotational communication with the first main wheel, the brush wheel and each other. Supporting disclosure for Applicant's sweeper can be found throughout the specification.

DeKadt, Liebscher and Christesen do not disclose a plurality of intermediate wheels that include a first wheel, a second wheel and a third wheel with the intermediate wheels being in rotational communication with a first main wheel, a brush wheel and each other.

Since DeKadt, Liebscher and Christesen do not disclose a plurality of intermediate wheels that include a first wheel, a second wheel and a third wheel with the intermediate wheels being in rotational communication with a first main wheel, a brush wheel and each other, Applicant believes that independent claims 1 and 10 are patentable over DeKadt, Liebscher and Christesen -- either taken alone or in combination -- on at least this basis.

Claims 11-15 depend on claim 10. Since claim 10 is believed to be patentable over DeKadt, Liebscher and Christesen, claims 11-15 are believed to be patentable over DeKadt, Liebscher and Christesen on the basis of their dependency on claim 10.

Allowable Subject Matter

Examiner stated that Claims 2-9 would be allowable if (1) rewritten to overcome the 112 rejections set forth in this Office Action and (2) rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claims 2 as to overcome the 112 rejections set forth in this Office Action and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claim 2 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 3-9 depend on claim 2. Since claim 2 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, claims 3-9 are now believed to be in condition for allowance based on their dependency on claim 10.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 06-0515.

Respectfully submitted,
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